the Adventures of

CAPTAIN JACK

– NUMBER TWELVE –

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MATURE READERS ONLY!

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

MIKE SPEAKS:

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THE CAPTAIN'S CREW

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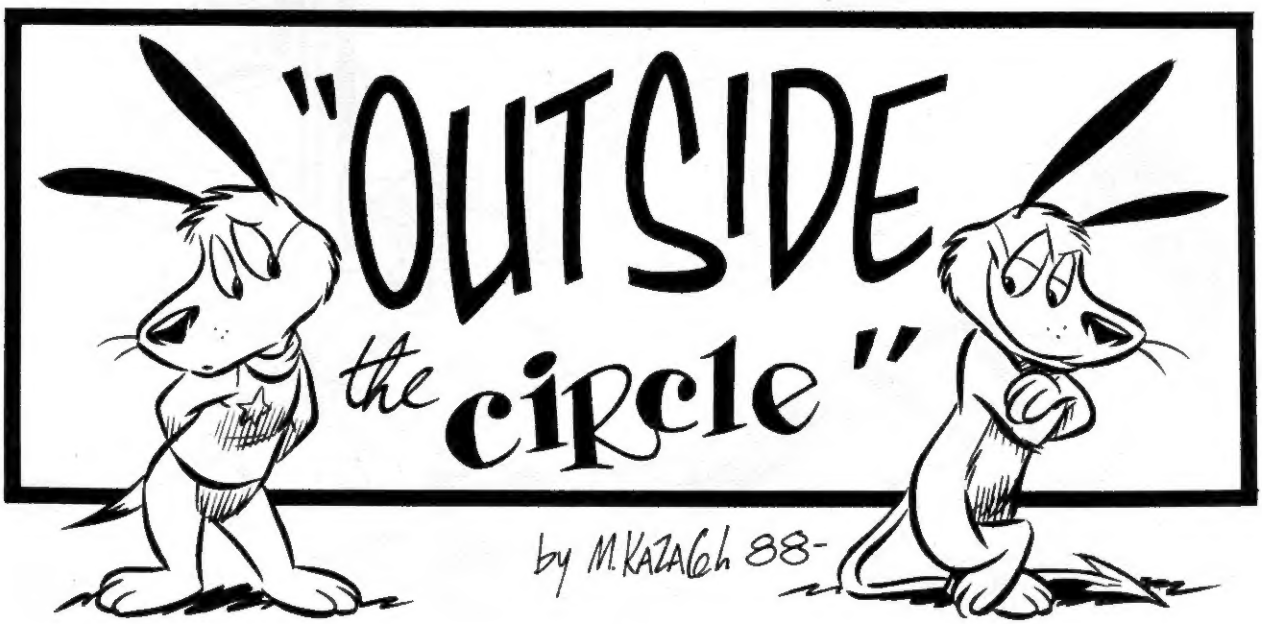
-YOU ALRIGHT, HERM?
I JUST GOT A LITTLE HEADACHE, THAT'S ALL...

WELL, THERE'S NO RUSH TO GET BACK. LET'S JUST SIT FOR A BIT...
FINE.

"LITTLE HEADACHE", HUH...? MISTER FELDMAN, YOU DO HAVE A KNACK FOR UNDERSTATEMENT..
-oooooooooo!


"OUTSIDE the circle"
by M.KAZAGh 88-

OH, HI, ADAM. WHEN'D YOU GET BACK?
HI.
MAH JONG
WOW!
ZORCH!
ZIP!
ZAP!
ZOWIE!
IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS
'COUPLA MINUTES AGO.
AH, GROUP! HOME AT LAST, EH?
THAT'S GOOD 'COS WE'RE CELEBRATING TONIGHT AND I'M DOING THE COOKING!
-MY FAMOUS LINGUINI WITH CLAM SAUCE!
FROZEN
MEATS
VEGETABLES

WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
WE'RE GOING TO LANSING NEXT WEEK FOR THE STATE USED VEHICLE AUCTION! WE'RE GETTING THAT NEW SHIP!
HONESTLY? I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'D BARELY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY YOUR OLD DEBTS...
HEY, HEY! THIS IS JACK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO!
DUNK & HEINZ NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY
I GOT WAYS OF GETTING WHAT I WANT, JUST ASK YOUR LITTLE PAL HERMAN. RIGHT, HERM?
UHHHH...
SO WHAT DID YOU DO, TAKE OUT A BANK LOAN?
CHILDISH
CHINTZ
CHIMNEY
CHOCTAW

BANK.....?!? LOOK, WHAT ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT? WE'RE GETTING A BETTER SHIP! TRUST ME.
Col·lat·er·al (kə-lăt'ər-əl) n.
Property acceptable as security for a loan or other obligation.
IT WAS A LUCKY DAY WHEN YOU MET UP WITH ME, RIGHT, KIDS? SOON PEOPLE'LL HEAR ABOUT US ALL OVER THE GALAXY! YESSIR, WE'RE REALLY GONNA MAKE SOME KINDA NOISE!
AARRRGHH!!

CAPTAIN! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?!
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH! IS THAT ALL I AM TO YOU? JUST A...A STEPPING STONE? A TOOL TO FURTHER YOUR CAREER?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YEAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S GOING ON! IF WE DON'T PAY BACK THE MONEY IN TIME, THOSE GANGSTERS ARE GONNA TAKE ME AWAY! IS THAT RIGHT, HERMAN? NOW I ASK YA!
IXNAYYYY...

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WON ME IN THAT POKER GAME..... DO YOU THINK IT'S FUN TO BE TREATED LIKE PROPERTY? I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D BE DIFFERENT. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D TREAT ME LIKE A PERSON.
IPHNHH.....
CAPTAIN! DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU PUT UP ADAM TO GET A LOAN?
I THOUGHT I MEANT MORE TO YOU THAN THAT!
..AND WITH MOBSTERS NO LESS! IS THAT WHAT YOU DID?
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH!
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS!
ADAM! FOR GOD'S SAKE WILLYA TRY TO CALM DOWN?!

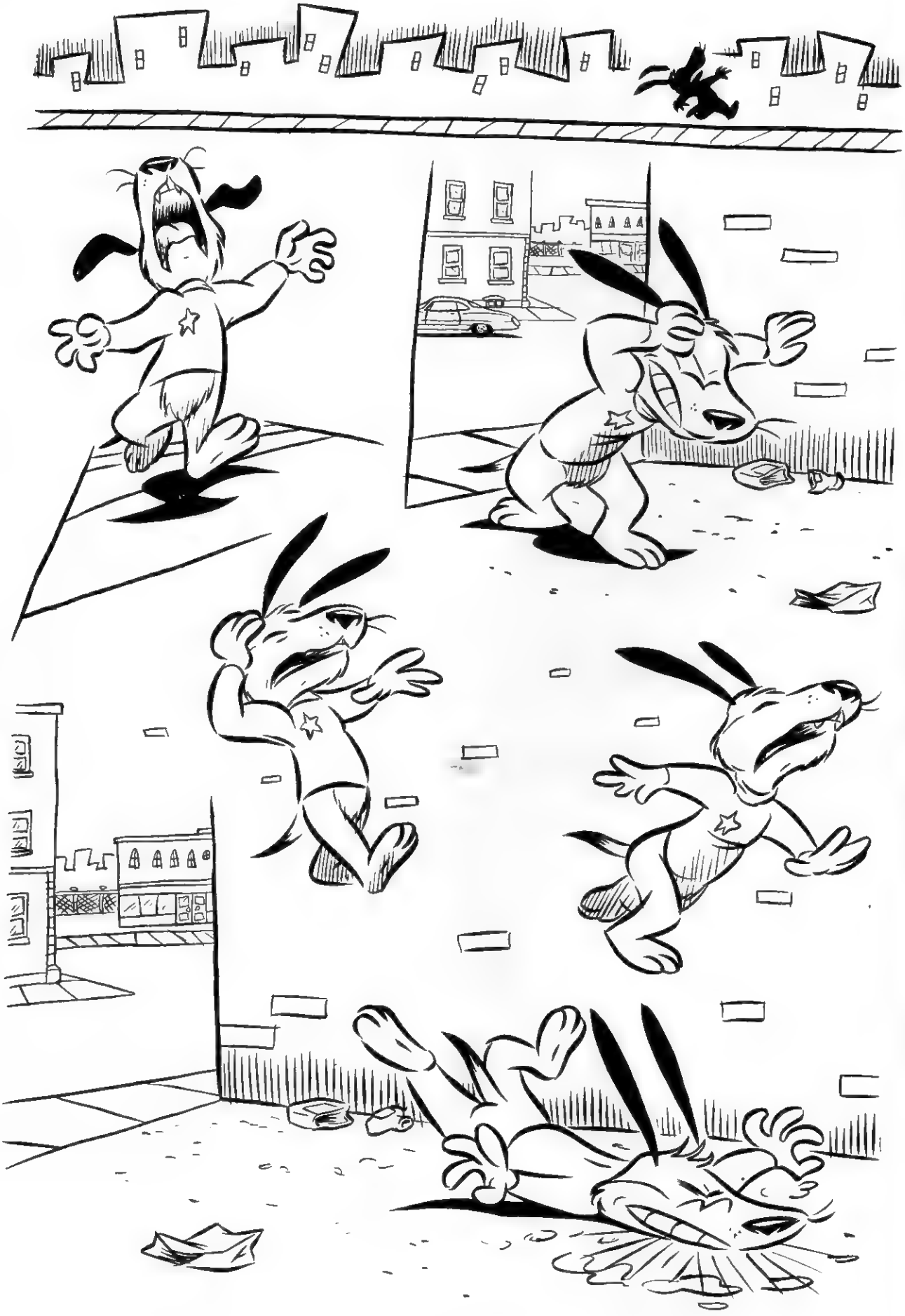
AND HERMAN, PLEASE INFORM YOUR FRIEND HERE THAT IF SHE WISHES TO ADDRESS ME, SHE CAN DO SO WITH THE RESPECT DUE TO A SHIP'S CAPTAIN!
MISTER JACK...
DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT USE ADAM AS COLLATERAL TO GET A LOAN FROM MOBSTERS?
LOOK AT ME.
DID YOU?
A LITTLE, YEAH.
A LITTLE?!?

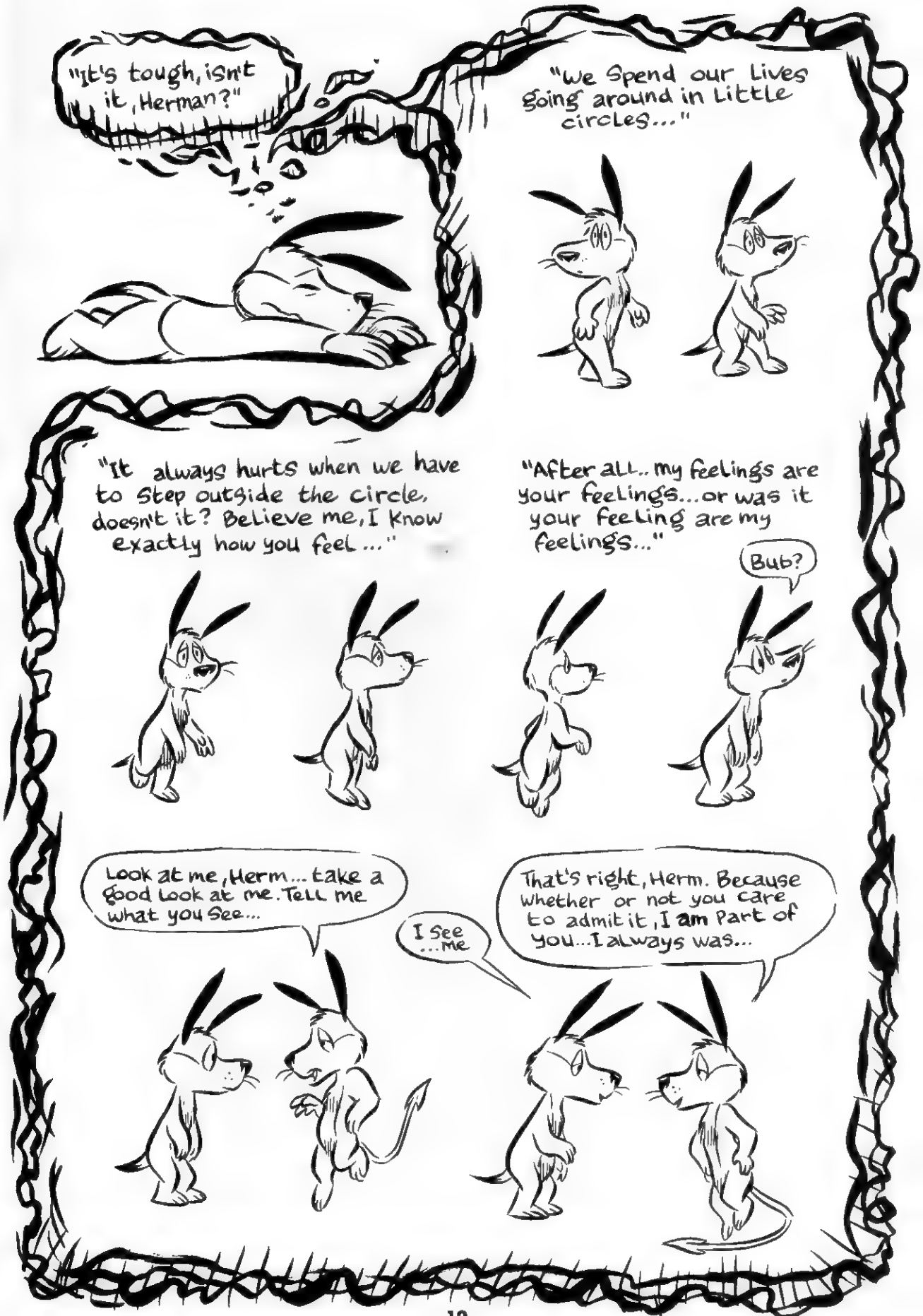
DO YOU SEE HOW YOUR CAPTAIN TREATS HIS CREW? I AM APPALLED, HERMAN! COMPLETELY APPALLED!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S NOT LIKE I SOLD HIM OR ANYTHING...
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PAY OFF THE LOAN AND EVERYTHING'LL BE ROSEY! NO HARM DONE!
ROSEY, EH? LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING... WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO A BANK?
A BANK, YOU SAY...
YES, WHY NOT A BANK?
WELL NOW, THEY'D PROBABLY WANT ALL THAT OTHER MONEY I BORROWED BACK BEFORE THEY'D LOAN ME ANY MORE...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

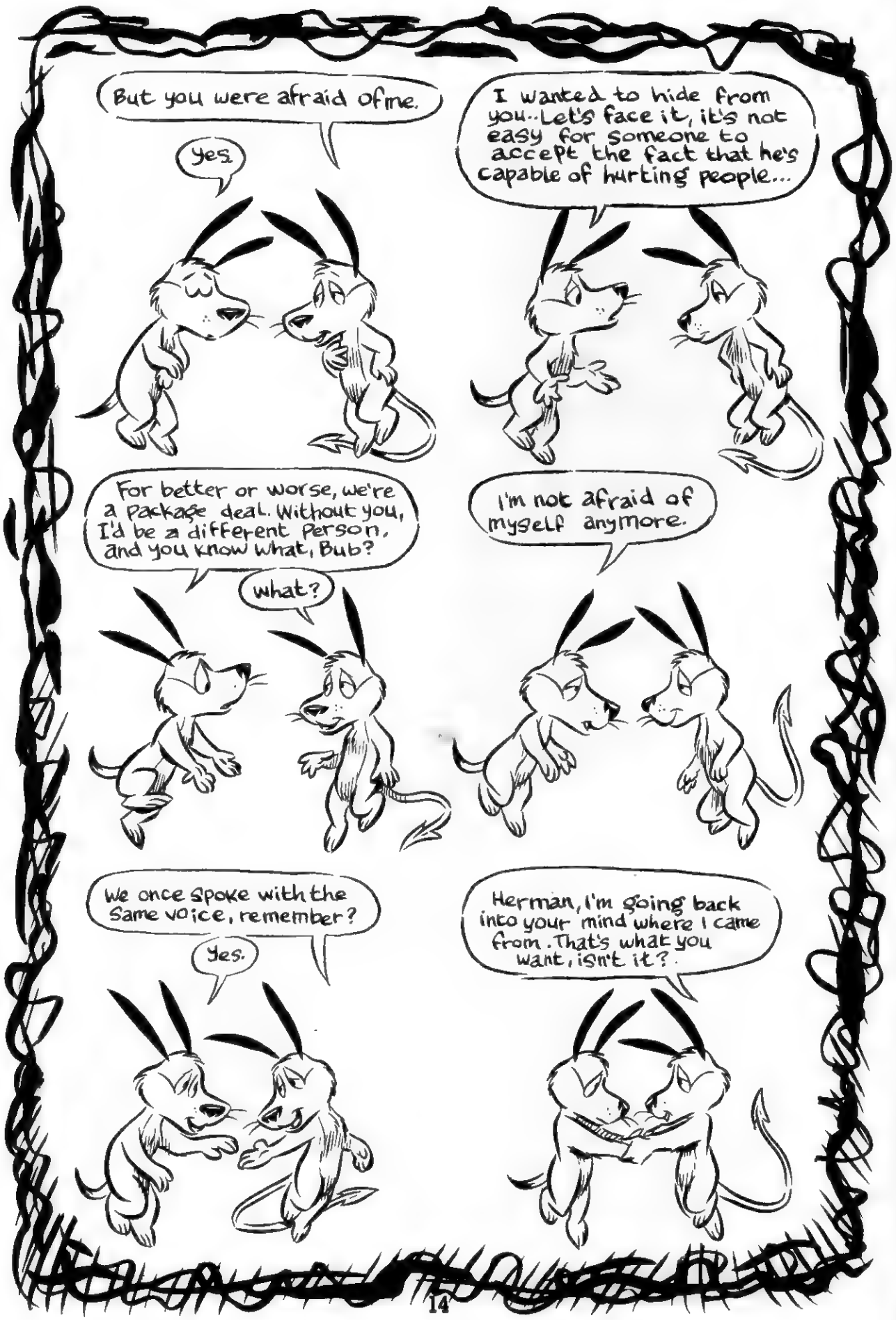
AND YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'D PUT YOUR LIFE IN THE HANDS OF THIS MAN?
WE-ELL...
NOW, DON'T WORRY, HERMAN! IT'LL BE FINE... DON'T YOU THINK?
I GUESS...
YOU GUESS?! YOU MEAN IT'S OKAY TO SIGN ME OVER TO THOSE HOODS?
BUT...
IT'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT, ISN'T IT? YOU BELIEVE IN ME, DON'T YOU HERMAN? YA LOVE ME, RIGHT?
I'M JUST NUTS AND BOLTS, IS THAT WHAT I AM, HERMAN? I THOUGHT I WAS YOUR FRIEND!
... BACK IN THE RESTAURANT! BUB WAS RIGHT, WASN'T HE, HERMAN?
NO, NO! DON'T YOU PEOPLE REALIZE? CAN'T YOU SEE....?

CAN'T ANY OF YOU UNDERSTAND WHO I AM?!? DO YOU ALL THINK I'M SO STUPID I DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS?

-AND AS FOR YOUR SILLY-ASSED PROBLEMS, YOU SORT THEM OUT! IT'S NOT LIKE MY OPINION EVER MATTERED BEFORE!!
OFFICE

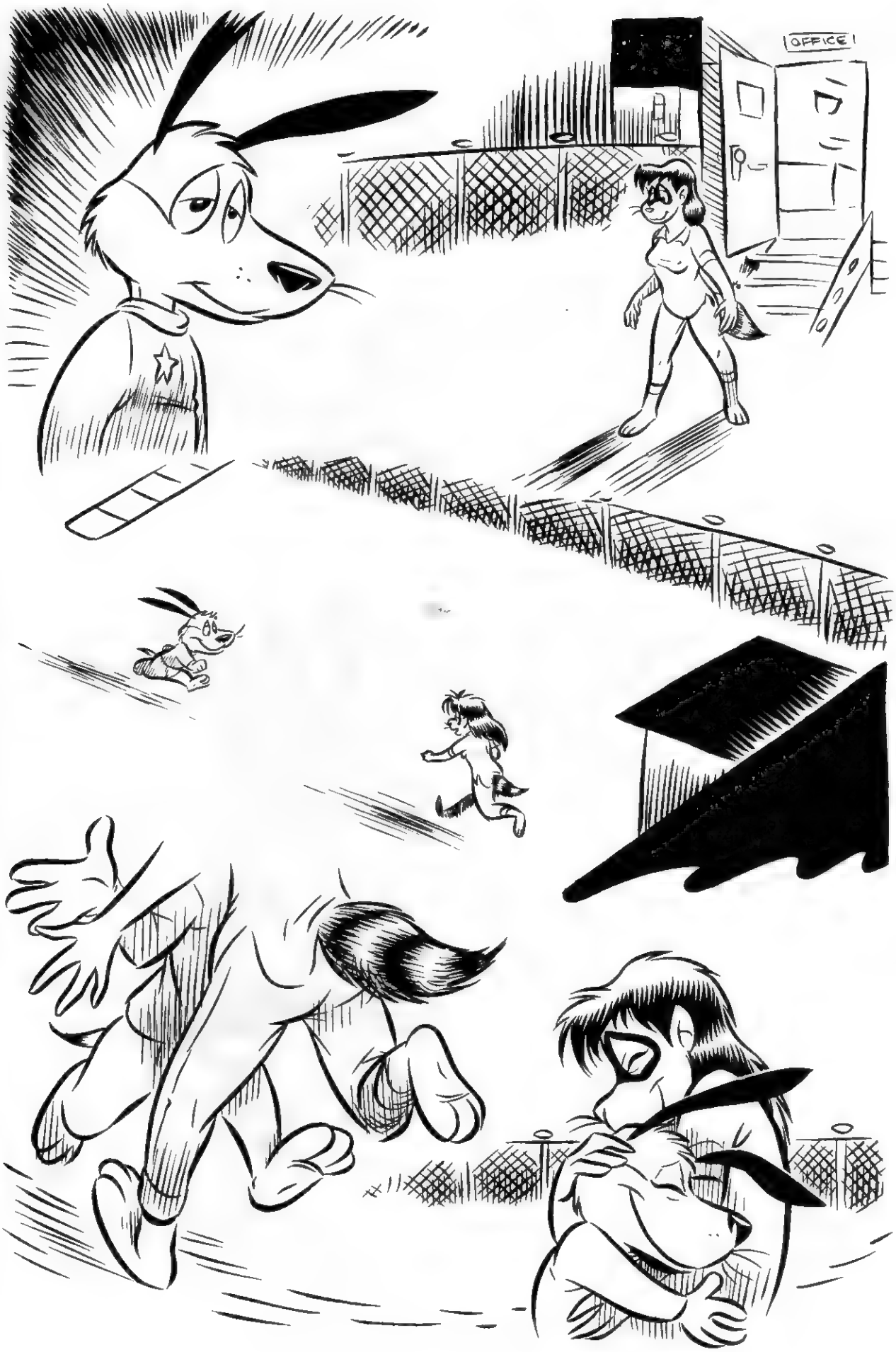



"It's tough, isn't it, Herman?"
"We spend our lives going around in little circles..."
"It always hurts when we have to step outside the circle, doesn't it? Believe me, I know exactly how you feel..."
"After all.. my feelings are your feelings...or was it your feeling are my feelings..."
Bub?
Look at me, Herm... take a good look at me. Tell me what you see...
I see ...me
That's right, Herm. Because whether or not you care to admit it, I am part of you...I always was...


But you were afraid of me.
Yes.
I wanted to hide from you..Let's face it, it's not easy for someone to accept the fact that he's capable of hurting people...
For better or worse, we're a package deal. Without you, I'd be a different person, and you know what, Bub?
What?
I'm not afraid of myself anymore.
We once spoke with the same voice, remember?
Yes.
Herman, I'm going back into your mind where I came from. That's what you want, isn't it?

I...I'LL MISS YOU, BUB...
MISS ME? MY FRIEND, I AM NOT GOING ANYWHERE YOU AREN'T...
TAKE ME.
AH—
AAAAUGHH!

OFFICE


OFFICE

HERMAN, I...
-UT!

DAYTON
AMNESIA
VICT

TAKE CARE OF HIM.

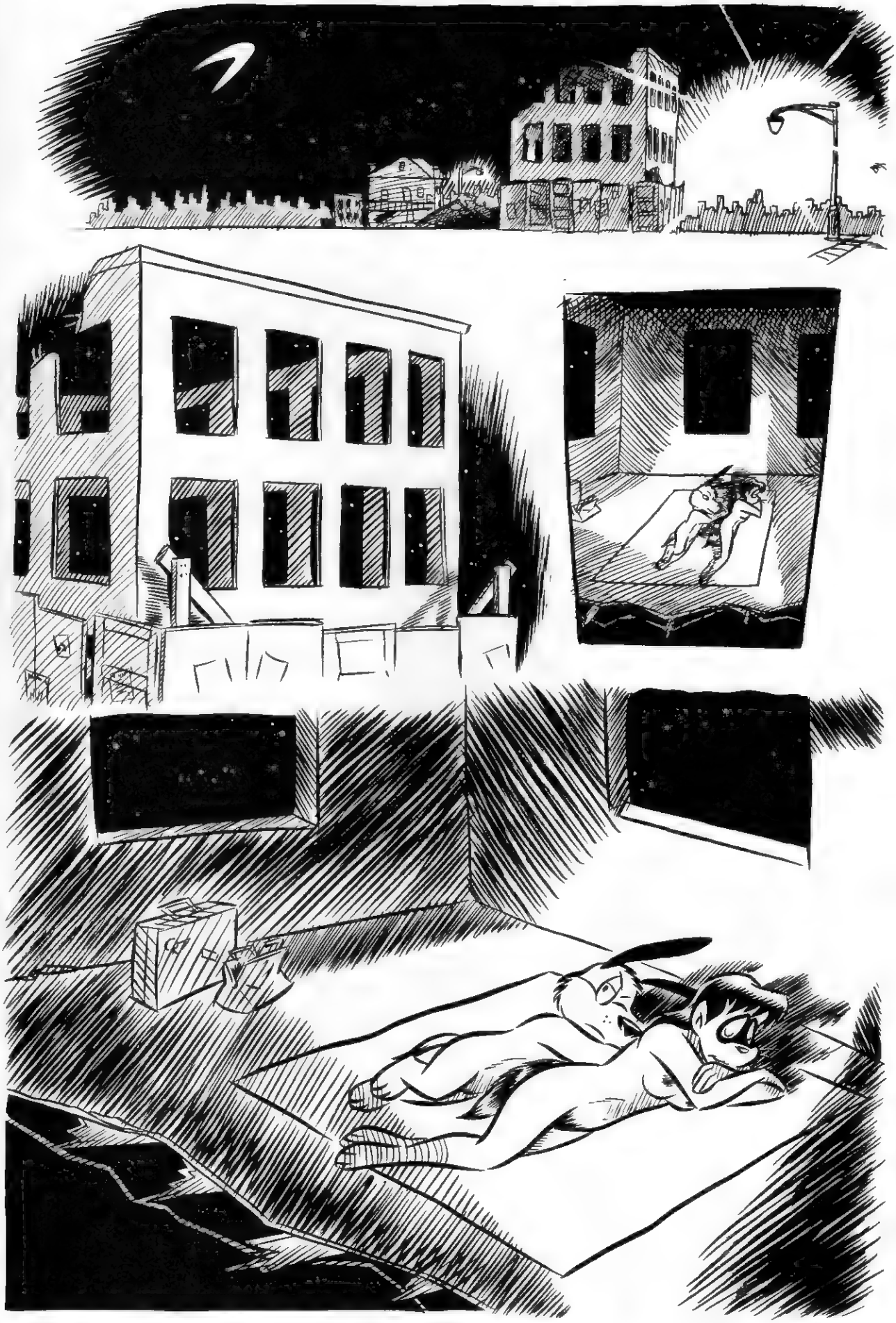
-YOU GONNA BE ALRIGHT HERE?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER...?
..I'M JUST A MACHINE.....

-YOU TWO GOING SOMEWHERE?
UH...
..WE'RE LEAVING.

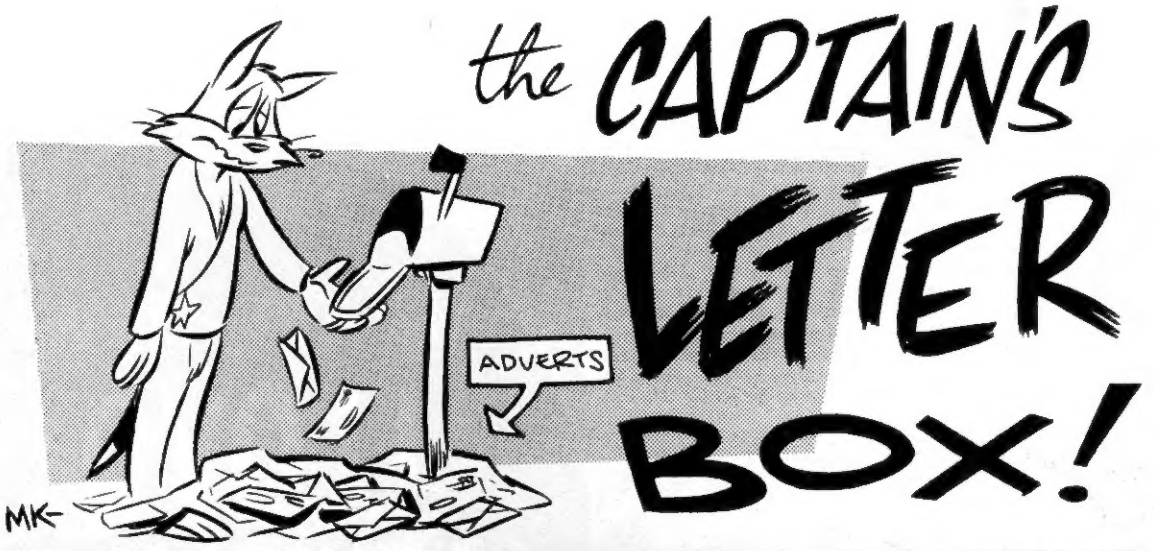
I SEE...
..AND WHEN DO WE THINK WE'LL BE COMING BACK?
I DON'T FANCY WE'LL BE COMING BACK.

OFFICE
GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY.
FEH!

WELL, ANYHOW, I GOT WORK TO DO!
GOTTA GET THESE BILLS TAKEN CARE OF... NOW WHERE'S ADAM...? ADAM?
ADAM, CAN YOU COME IN HERE?
YES, MASTER?



Goodnight, Everybody!



Send all letters to: THE CAPTAIN'S LETTERBOX, 1800 Bridgegate Street #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361

Dear Mike:

So, *Captain Jack* is still going strong, with developments afoot, mysteries yet to be solved, and love still holding the world, and the team, together. (Heck, I always figured that Herman just, y'know, lifted heavy things. What's a cargo vessel without a guy to do some grunt lifting? Adam is good at that too, but he's really just a forklift with cute pecs. It takes the old human element, right?)

Beezlebub, by the way, is, although he doesn't realize it, in a bit of trouble. If he keeps asking Herman probing questions, if he keeps making Herman *think* (yeah, yeah, I know: fat chance); if, in the end, he makes Herman take a long, careful examination of who exactly it is that Herman truly *is*—well, poof: Beezie can find himself relegated to a one-way trip off to wherever the heck it is that phobias and delusions go when the need for them has been sublimated. In an age of psychological honesty, demons, sprites, small feys and smaller imps have a dickens of a time holding on to their victims.

Besides, Herman's in love, and Janet will have a healing effect on him. And he on her. And each on each other. Several times. Ahem. Love is like that.

The back-up story, with the B.B. Wolf and L.B. losing him in the aftermath of an ugly custody struggle was good, but worse, it was too clearly true. What this world really needs is a good old $2.00 Justice Fantasy, but until we get one, we'll have to make do with a bit of didactic theater. (Definitions: Cathartic Theater is like the old melodramas of yore, where the evil villain gets put away and all wrongs are righted. Didactic Theater is more of the thing that Bertolt Brecht became famous for, where the world's wrongs are highlighted, where evil, although it might not win, gets the last laugh, and where the audience goes home upset. People *can* be forced to think. . . and they'll pay good money for it, too.) (Forgive me if I'm in "idiot lecture" mode; you probably knew all of that.)

Bless you,

Jefferson P. Swycaffer
San Diego, CA

[As you can tell if you've read this issue, Jefferson, your analysis of Bub's destiny is closer to the mark than you probably imagined. —ED.]

Dear Mike:

I am not a letter-writer like some people are, but I thought it was time to speak out. I think that *Captain Jack* is one of the best "funny (serious?) animal" books around, in the same category as *Omaha the Cat Dancer*—but slightly different.

Different in the sense that you've added enough realism (reality) to your characters (that reminds me a lot of the old cartoons I watched as a kid on TV) for them to walk a fine balance between being Saturday morning cartoon cutouts and total realism. In other words, they are people with brains and feelings to go with them, despite the fact that they look like they escaped from a cartoon.

Just read issue #11—woah!! Things are getting pretty heavy (serious) with Herman here! I hope it's for the best 'cause I like the little guy. Speaking of changes, Mike, do you think something could be done about *Jack*? I mean, so far I haven't seen anything on background, history, etc. on the Capt. in the book, whereas I have with the other characters.

In other words, he needs more "filling out" is what I'm trying to say.

Now to the last order of business: I am having great difficulty renewing my subscription to *CJ*. Fantagraphics, it appears, is not interested in listing *CJ* in their latest catalog—and I have got only two issues left on my old one!

My beef is this: how is *Captain Jack* going to stay in existence (published) if Fantagraphics doesn't list it in the "subscription" category of their catalogue? I've heard that sales on *CJ* are bad, but they're gonna get a lot worse if Fantagraphics doesn't offer subscriptions on *CJ*.

Keep up the good work. I hope to read it—maybe.

Darren Ryder
Chaumont NY

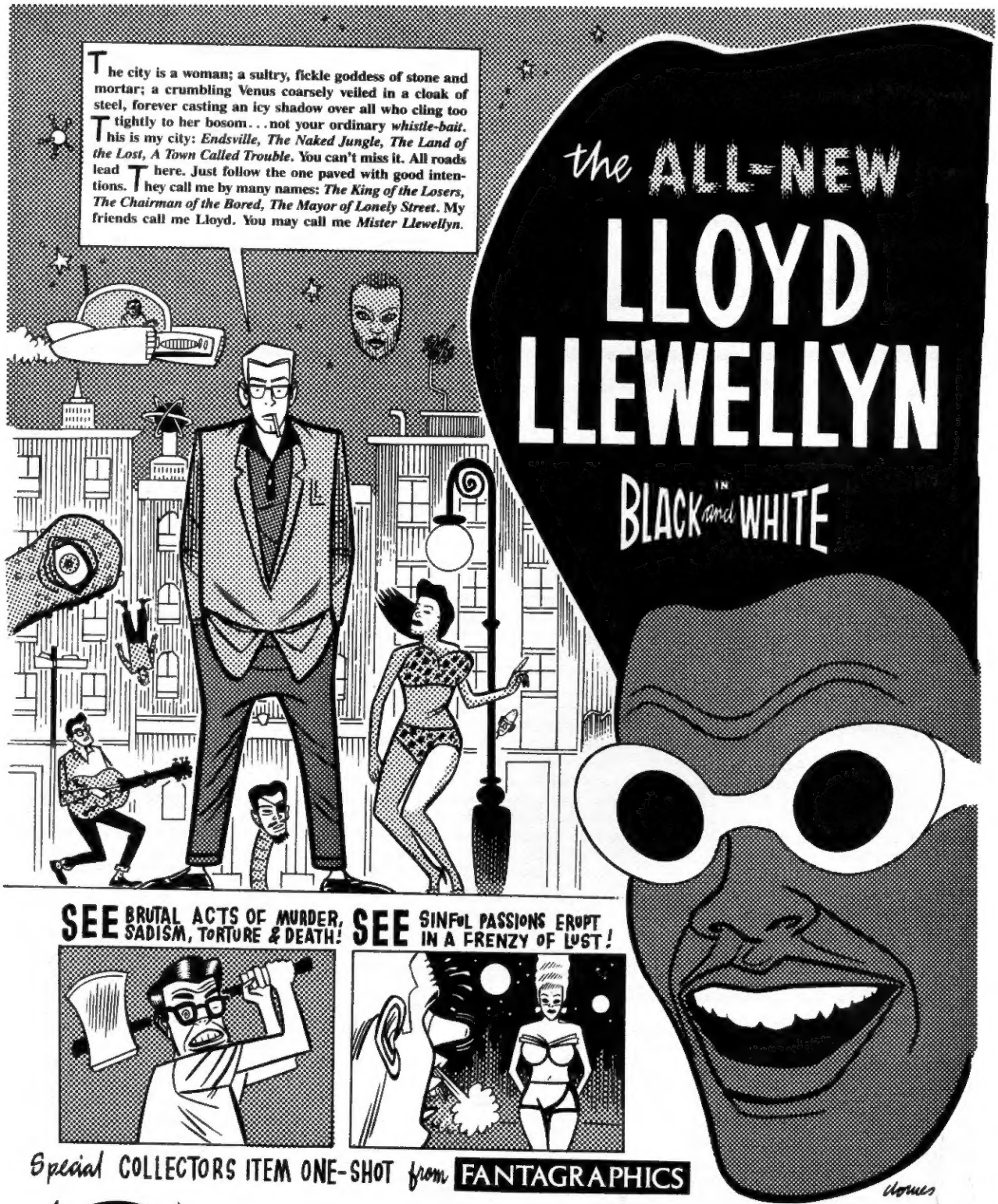
[Well, this issue should have answered your questions as to the mysterious anti-subscription anomie that has affected Fantagraphics: knowing that the title was about ready to close down, we didn't want to take anyone's money under false pretenses.

Those whose subscriptions to CJ *still have issues to come will be offered a choice between a pro-rata refund, or a sub to some other Fantagraphics title such as* Critters, Usagi Yojimbo, Love and Rockets, *or Mike's own favorite,* Neat Stuff.

That's about it for the final issue of The Adventures of Captain Jack. *Those in search of Mike's work should check out the new half-season of* Mighty Mouse *cartoons. Also, let it be known that Mike is guest inking a few pages of the next issue of Apple Comics'* MythConceptions*—drawn by the talented and lovely Ken Mitchroney, who also provided the illo to the left.*

And no, this is not the end of the road for Captain Jack. He'll be back someday, we promise—we don't know when, we don't where, we don't know in which format. . . but Mike has too many more Jack stories to tell for him to reside very long in limbo.

Thanks, too, to all our readers for their continuing support; we'll meet again someday! —ED.]



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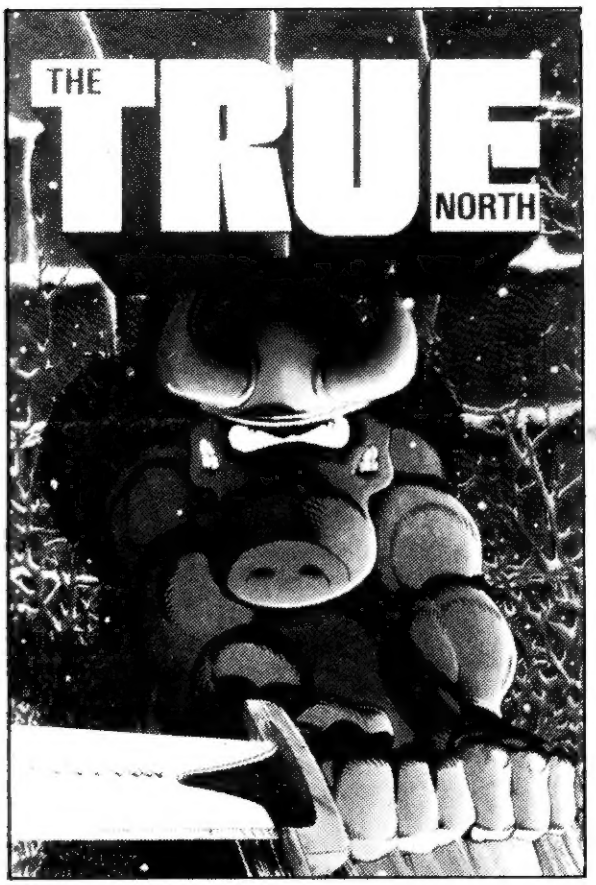
On September 22, 1987, the R.C.M.P. confiscated 192 comic books from **Comic Legends** in Calgary. The owner, the manager and one employee were charged with circulating obscene materials, for which the maximum penalty is two years in jail and $2,000 in fines. The message is clear: The right of Canadians to read what they want to read is threatened. The right of retailers to sell material intended for adults to adults is threatened. In Canada, freedom of speech is being limited under the judgment of an uninformed minority.



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is a 64-page anthology comic book published to support Comic Legends in their legal battle. Contributors include: Mark Askwith, David Boswell, Mary Ann Bramstrup, Chester Brown, Kent Burles, Nick Burns, Ian Carr, Michael Cherkas, David Darrigo, Dan Day, Gordon Derry, Rodney Dunn, Terry Fitzgerald, George Freeman, Larry Hancock, Greg Holfeld, Ron Kasman, Adrian Kleinbergen, Joe Matt, Derek McCulloch, Todd McFarlane, George Metzger, Bernie Mireault, Gabriel Morrissette, Monique Renee, Seth, Mark Shainblum, Dave Sim, Ken Steacy, Ronn Sutton, Jeffrey Taylor, R.G. Taylor, Ty Templeton, Simon Tristam, William Van Horn, Matt Wagner, and Rob Walton.

Make Cheques out to: THE COMIC LEGENDS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND. *THE TRUE NORTH* is available for $3.50 US/$4.00 CDN plus $1.00 postage. Free Gifts available with the following donations to the fund: **$10 — button; $25 — T-shirt (+ button); $50 — Poster (+ button, T-shirt); $75 — ltd. edition button (+ button, T-shirt, Poster).**

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I would also like to make a donation of $_____ to the Defense Fund. If sending a donation of $25 or more please indicate shirt size: _____.

MEET HYPER AL!
by M. KAZAGH - 1988
HI, EVERYONE!
I'M ON MY WAY TO THE CANDY STORE TO CALL MY MOTHER AND I MUST REMEMBER HER PHONE NUMBER WHICH IS BIGELOW-5-2276!
ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO, THREE POTATO...
BIGELOW 5-2276.
THE SHOW STARTS AT 2:30 AND THE TICKETS COST $1.50.
BIGELOW 5-2276.
NOW PLAYING
NOW PLAYING
TICKETS
23,647... 23,648... 23,649...
5 & 10
HOW MANY BEANS?
BIGELOW 5-2276.
BIGELOW 5-2276.
CANDY STORE
DOING 45 IN A 15 MPH ZONE IS A $20.00 FINE!
TIMES
OH, DEAR! I'VE ACCIDENTALLY TAPPED INTO THE PENTAGON'S DEFENSE COMPUTER AND WIPED-OUT CINCINNATI!